

SHARING SESSION #1 | Oct 6, 2016

Topic 1: Telling the Story of Rocky Flats NWR

We want to interpret the site and its values/issues over time (from pre-history to European settlement to Cold War Era to NWR): Are there other topics you would like to see in the exhibits & panels? Are there particular aspects of the Rocky Flats story that you'd like to emphasize more than another?

Interp/Exhibit Ideas

- More discussion about safety, history, etc.
- Address the Rocky Flats Landowners Lawsuit
- show legacy of continued contamination
- Explanation of what's being monitored, what the results are, etc. - we see the monitors out there and want to know what they are measuring/doing.
- Story of the controversy. Embrace and interpret the controversy, the passion around this property. This is an interesting aspect of the story (the heated meetings, the protests). Tell all sides of the story.
- Fair and balanced presentation of the govnt determination of safety alongside other opinions - explain all sides
- How about giving the activists a space in the museum to speak their mind about how unsafe the refuge is?
- Unique flora and fauna
- Animals/plants/geology
- Stargazing
- How are we going to fit all of this history and controversy into a 1200sqft museum space? Needs to be bigger.
- Interp on cleanup, not so much the history, but the journey we've made and what's there now, keep it updated.
- How about rotating exhibits mirroring the changes of the site over time? A way to show different perspectives and to address different topics in a small space.
- Build a model of the plant and show all the buildings that were there and explain what happened there
- Share information about NREL - what are they doing over there? It's so visible from RFNWR.
- The weather is interesting out there - how about real-time weather stats and instruments that interpret/show the weather.
- Brochures/Maps
- There are now RF-related displays at the Arvada Historical Museum and there will be one at Boulder History Museum and History Colorado.
- Take seriously the much expressed view that the visitor center tell the full story of RF
- Tell the story of shut down and clean up process from ~1989-2005
- Make a reference to the number of soil and groundwater samples taken through the years. Try to put the date in perspective by discussing the concept of RISK.
- Discuss radiation exposure we all get from everyday activities like medical x rays and flying at 35000 feet.
- Important to tell the story of Dr Carl Johnson, government duplicity and resulting cancers in humans especially high Leukemia rates in children. Dr Johnson and American hero vs. DOE & Jeffco villany

Sign / Trail Interp Ideas

- Will there be honest warning signage explaining risk of visiting? Make sure there is educational/informative signs for people entering the refuge.
- Signs at entrance that makes people aware of the controversy around the site - not to scare them off, just to inform
- Emphasis on consent signage
- Can you mark or interpret historic homestead spots along the trails? More info on homesteading and ranching since this part of the story is often overlooked
- Include benches along some trails
- It is not safe and you are going to do it anyway. Please have signs warning people they are taking their lives and their children lives at risk.

Topic 2: Public Engagement

How else can we keep you informed and involved? How can we help you and your neighbors feel more comfortable about Rocky Flats NWR? What do you hope to gain from the engagement process? Are you interested in helping us spread the word about the refuge opening and future engagement opportunities?

Ideas

- We have to dig for information about Rocky Flats. Could you “push” more information out? Do more outreach?
- Use “Next Door” as a tool for spreading the word about meetings and engagement opportunities.
- Keep website updated with the latest news, project updates, calendar of engagement events. Use the website as a clearinghouse for information on Rocky Flats.
- Create a way to receive input without having to attend a meeting. For families, it’s difficult to come out on evenings and we work, so day meetings aren’t any better. Can we email in comments? Could there be a digital forum for engagement?
- What if the webpage featured a blog or a visible list of public comments - so people’s ideas are captured and visible to others, so people can engage in a virtual dialogue with one another and the Service. This would create a record of a running dialogue.
- Can you keep us updated on milestones in the next 18 months, updates on projects/plans/developments, etc. For instance, RTD does a good job of offering progress reports.
- “I’d like to hear less of *this* at future meeting” (less about controversy, less complaints, etc).
- What about using Public access channels on local TV and broadcasting the meetings?
- Provide updates on how the site is being monitored
- Use social media to spread the word, provide content to partners so they can post it on their Facebook pages (BMA and Rocky Flats Cold War Museum are happy to help)
- Use NPR/radio
- TV
- Local Papers
- Post on Facebook
- Post flyers @ coffee shops, grocery stores, bike shops, schools, running stores, sports stores, etc.
- Rocky Flats Cold War Museum will help in every way - just ask us
- Make more tours available and make the tours more visible on the website

Comments on Meeting Logistics and Format

- Take future meetings away from Candelas, move them outside of the area and get input outside of Candelas neighborhood
- We need a bigger space for future meetings
- Include a map of the meeting location next time.

Topic 3: Future Sharing Sessions

What do you want to discuss at the upcoming sharing sessions? What other information would you like staff to share?

Suggested Topics

- Trail system
 - Access points
 - Location of trailheads (issue w/ current location of trailhead on Indiana)
 - Regional connections
 - Parking (need to fit horse trailers)
 - Types of trails (surfacing, width, etc)
 - ADA access / walkway/paths handicap-accessible
 - Trail corridors (can there be a trail all the way around the refuge?)
 - Types of trail use
 - What is keeping bikes, boots, horses, etc from carrying contaminated dust back into our cities?
 - The north culvert (at 128) is highly contaminated, The trail should not go through there.
 - How are you going to keep trails safe after flooding through contaminated areas?
- Visitor management
 - Fencing (keep out of Legacy area); Is there a fence around the off-limits area? How tall?
 - Signs/Information
 - Benches
 - Wildlife viewing areas
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- Habitat protection / restoration
- Volunteer opportunities
- Future Programming
 - Events
 - Activities / Tours
 - Programming at the new building
 - Trash clean-up / cleanup projects
- Building sustainability standards
- Safety / Risk
 - Discussion of specific studies, latest surveys, ongoing monitoring etc.
 - Present ALL of the information
 - Vouch that it's "safe"

- Can someone talk about Risk assessment / Risk communication? Help people understand the risk and allow them to make an informed choice?
- Discuss radiation exposure standards and the contradictions between standards set by EPA and CDPHE and what the National Academy of Science 2006 Report says about exposure. Tie in results from sampling for the greenway.
- Ongoing soil and water monitoring results as well as historical data
- Natural History / Ecology of the area
- Affordable Housing vs Cancer Risk

Other Comments/Concerns Related to Safety/Contamination:

- Do independent testing, then "safety" would be more believable
- Full environmental testing, multi-agency testing (air, soil, water), 3rd party member involvement
- Wants to see vegetative samples, more varied surveying, redoing surveys that have "expired"
- The 2004 EIS didn't analyze the greenway, the visitor center. They've never studied the genetic effects of radiation exposure on wildlife. An EIS should be done that analyses both genetic effects of radiation exposure on wildlife and conditions along the greenway and the visitor center area. The refuge should not be open to the public until we can see the results of the EIS.
- Unless it is proven absolutely safe, there should not even be trails and children even allowed.
- Plutonium has a ½ life of 24,000 years. Prairie dogs dig up contaminated soils, it blows into the so called safe areas.
- Keep children away from this contaminated dirt. I hope to spread the word: Elk OK, humans not OK